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VOL. I.]

JANUARY, 1875.

[No. I.

THE
DECORAH NUMISMATIC
JOURNAL

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY

COOLEY & HOLWAY.

*Ambition sighed; she found it vain to trust
The faithless column and crumbling bust,
Huge moles, whose shadow stretched from shore to shore,
Their ruins perished, and their place no more!
Convinced, she now contracts her vast design,
And all her triumphs shrink into a coin.—Pope*

E. W. HOLWAY, EDITOR.

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E. W. Holway, Editor. Cooley & Holway, Publishers.

BARON GERTZ'S TEN COPPER DALERS.

So far as we know, there has never been a complete description of these interesting pieces published in English. They are figured and described in *Kundman's Nummi Singulares* and *Kæhler's Muenz Belustiguny*.

No. I.

A crown closed at the top; beneath is the date 1715. Reverse, 1 DALER S. M. *One Daler Silfwer Mynt*.

No. II.

A female sitting with bare head, holding a branch in her right hand and a spear by her side with the left, which also rests on a shield. Inscription, FIDE PUBLICA.—*With public credit*. In exergue, 1716. Reverse, as in No. I.

No. III.

A man standing, dressed as a Roman. He has a helmet on his head, a sword in his right hand, the Swedish shield on his left arm and around, WETT OCH WAPEN. *Wit and weapons*. In exergue, 1717. Reverse, a shield surrounded at the sides by various weapons, and two cornucopiæ at the bottom. It is supported behind by a lion, his head appearing at the top turned to the right. On the shield, 1. DALER S.M.

It was necessary, in order to pay the soldiers and have some circulating medium, to issue tokens having a certain value in silver, and, in doing so, guard against an over issue, and counterfeiting at home and abroad. To prevent the latter, all arriving ships were to be searched, and the dies changed every three or four months. Only the last issued coins were to be current.

During the reign of Charles XI., the copper Dalers weighed three and one quarter pounds, and Queen Christina, to save her subjects the labor of counting, struck them weighing *twenty-five* pounds. Those who had many of them were obliged to store them in their cellars, to prevent breaking down their houses. Now came Baron Goertz with his little copper Dalers, weighing only *one-eighth of an ounce*, but which Royal edict declared should pass at the same value as the others.

There were eighteen million of these Dalers issued from 1715 to 1719. During this time ten different dies were used, and, as the old coins were always exchanged for the new, there was little danger of counterfeits. To keep up the value of these tokens, they were to be received in payment of taxes and duties, and the Baron supposed no one would refuse to take the coins. However they did not produce the desired effect. Everything rose to a frightful price, and the Dalers cost the Baron his life.

He was cursed upon every side; he was hated and reported to be an atheist by the clergy for placing Jupiter, Mars and Phœbus on his coins, and the Dalers went by the name of Baron 'Goertz's Gods. On November 30, 1718, Charles XII. was found dead in the trenches, leaning on his rifle. His hand was on his sword and in his pocket, a Prayer Book and a portrait of Gustavus Adolphus. It is probable that the bullet which killed him came from the Swedish side.

As Goertz was looked upon as the cause of all the misfortunes of the country, he was at once siezed and taken to Stockholm amid great rejoicings. On the way a woman said to him; "*our God has given you into our hands; see now whether yours, which you have given us instead of coins, will save you*." Had he not been strongly guarded,

the rabble would have torn him in a thousand pieces. The striking of these Dalers was the first point in the charges against him. He was condemned to be executed on March 19, 1719. He often said to the minister who attended him; "*Mors regis, fides in regem, est mors mea.*" (The death of the King, fidelity to the King, is the cause of my death.) He was taken in a coach to the place of execution, the people crying; "*Art thou now rough and ready with thy wit and weapons?*"

Seeing his weeping servants around him, he said "Weep not: there are none such good friends, or masters and servants in this world that must not part from each other some time."

He was beheaded and hastily buried on the spot.

Owing to the death of the King, the last Daler did not pass at the high value of the others.

CURIOUS DOLLARS of JOHN GEO. II. of SAXONY.

Obverse, the Elector on horseback with the inscription; DEO ET PATRIÆ. 1657. The position of this inscription was probably taken from the Dollar of John Geo. I. 1619, with *Pro Lege et Grege*, which begins at the right and ascends. So in this, the DEO commences at the horse's tail and PATRIÆ comes at his head. This gave the enemies of the Saxons an opportunity to deride them, saying that they were an impious nation, as they had given the name of God the place at the horse's tail. The Elector therefore called in these, paying more than their real value, and prepared a new die, in which DEO was at the horse's head. In consequence, the first issue is much sought for and difficult to procure.


Reverse of both Dollars; D. G. IOHAN. GEORG. II. DUX. SAX. I. C. & MONT. S. R. IMP. ARCHIM. ELECT. ATQ. POST EXCESS. DIV. IMP. FERDIN. III. AUG. VICARIS. LANDG. THUR. MAR. MISNIÆ. SUP. & INF. LUSATÆ. BURGG. MAGD. COM. DE. MARC. & RAVENSB. DOM. IN. RAVENSTEIN.—*Vid. Kundman's Nummi Singulares. Page 101.*

THE
DECORAH NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

WILL BE PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

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 Address all communications to the Editor.

Coming into our sanctum one day, we found the following obituary posted in a conspicuous place:—

DIED

On April 1. 1875,

From lack of subscribers,

The Decorah Numismatic Journal,

Sorely lamented by the Editor, Foreman & Devil.

Success to its cremators,

Peace to its ashes.

However we do not believe in croakers, and, if we live, those malign predictions shall not be verified. This Journal shall be published a year — subscribers or no subscribers.

A large collection of coins and medals was sold at Vienna Nov. 16. and following days. We have the first part of the catalogue, containing the *Gotthardt Minus'sche Thaler- & Medaillensammlung*. There are 4124 lots.

C. G. Theime's *Blaetter fuer Muenzfreunde*, Leipsig, is now edited by Dr. H. Grote and will be published eight times a year, instead of quarterly as heretofore.

We shall be pleased to receive numismatic articles from anyone interested in the science.

THE NUREMBERG HOBBY-HORSE MEDAL.

Obverse a boy riding a hobby-horse. Inscription; FRIEDEN
GEDACHTNVS IN NVRNB. 1650.

Reverse, the double headed imperial eagle with the Austrian and
Burgundian arms on its breast. Below; VIVAT FERDINAND. III. IMP.
VIVAT. The medal is square.

Germany, almost ruined by the Thirty Years' War, was now re-
joicing at the peace obtained by the treaty of Muenster and Osnab-
burg, and in the year 1650 a convention was held at Nuremberg
to decide about the evacuation of the cities still occupied by the
Swedes. As the action of this assembly completed the peace, every
one in Nuremberg was exhibiting his joy in every possible manner.
Some wag started a story among the boys that the Emperor's
Agent, Octavius Piccolomini, would give everyone a silver medal
that came to his house the next day riding on a hobby-horse- The
report spread throughout the city and the next morning an immense
crowd of boys, riding their sticks, came prancing and whinnying
before the house of the astonished agent. Opening the window, he
soon learned the cause of the gathering, and laughing heartily, told
them to come again in eight days.

Meantime he had prepared the medal described above, and on the
appointed day nearly every boy in the city appeared and each one
received a medal.

Thus it happened that Piccolomini fulfilled a promise made by an
emperor to the children of Nuremberg 163 years before. In 1487,
the Emperor Frederick III. held a diet at Nuernberg and being
told about the great number of children in the city, he expressed a
desire to see them all together at his palace. This greatly pleased
the inhabitants, and the mothers dressed their children as splendidly
as possible, hoping that they would receive some valuable present.
The Emperor, however, had prepared for the occasion about one
thousand fingersnaps, stamped with his portrait. He intended to

give each child one, but such a large number came that the supply was soon exhausted, and many were obliged to go sorrowfully away without any. To make amends for this, he proposed to have them come again and to give each a silver penny marked with his seal, which they should keep as a treasure to be shown to their children and children's children. But for some unknown reason this was never done.

Gingersnaps, with Frederick's portrait, were still baked in the last century in the city of Nuremburg, and, for aught we know, are baked there to this day.

As this is our first attempt at printing, we hope that some allowance will be made for our typographical appearance. We expect to make quite an improvement in the next number.

"Coins and Medals are the only historical memorials which are 'of undoubted authority, of necessary use and observation, not perishable by time, nor confined to any certain place; properties not found in books, statues, pictures, buildings, or any other monuments of illustrious actions.' (*Swift*.)

Besides their great and acknowledged value to the student of history, coins and medals should, by an educated man, be regarded in the same light as books. 'I soon perceived,' says Admiral Smyth, 'the mischievous error of the too general opinion, that an acquaintance with ancient coins is more the province of the antiquary than the scholar, that it was of little permanent advantage to the general reader, and that it was useless to him whose avocations in life admit of but brief intervals for literary researches. My own conviction, on the contrary, showed that without these infallible vouchers there cannot be a clear understanding of many customs, offices and events.'